

# AIRMAN'S POST

NO. 2 MANNING DEPOT. BRANDON. MANITOBA



JANUARY 1943

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Vol. 3, No. 1

No. 2 Manning Depot, Brandon, Manitoba

January, 1943

### THE EDITOR'S CORNER



**S**TANDING on the threshold of a new year we are often inclined to turn and look back on the happenings of the past twelve months and hold the inevitable post mortems on things that no longer matter. The past as we knew it and lived it is something that we should have no desire to resurrect however momentarily. It was a way of living that was retrogressive, and a way of fighting that was defensive. We are finished with that sort of thing. Why then even bother to turn and look back. We have reached, after much travail, the summit of a hill that is marked "The end of the beginning." Before us on the down grade is the road labelled 1943. Not an easy road to travel, not a swift road, but at least a road along which we will be going forward, not backward. We cannot see the rainbow yet nor the pot of gold at the end of it. But we can see before us now the horizon behind which lies victory. Victory and something more—a better way of life, a fresh stake in a new world rising out of the ashes of the old!

Early this month in England a certain distinguished citizen of that country presented to his government the blue print of a very wonderful and tremendous project. It was not the plan of a new and more efficient type of submarine, it was not a design for manufacturing a better and deadlier kind of machine-gun, it was not a formula for creating a more powerful explosive. It was, in the midst of war, a new design for better living. It was a great humanitarian plan seeking to establish a foundation for the building of a way of life that would no longer tolerate conditions where children starved in the midst of plenty, where shabby, furtive men stood in long lines to receive the meagre benefits of so-called relief, where a forgotten legion of youths roamed the highways and byways in a futile quest for employment. Many of these young men, *even now*, are assured that they will never suffer that experience again—the many who died at Hong Kong and Dieppe.

The road behind us is the graveyard where we buried our mistakes and follies, our indecisions and vacillations, our doubts and fears, our complacency and indifference. Let them rest in peace—we have no more need of them. Our destiny lies ahead. We have a war to win before that promised new world can become an actuality. Let our slogan for the coming year be: 1943 and Victory.

#### BY THESE SIGNS AND TOKENS . . .

Oh, that we had the power to wave a magic wand and conjure up another 500 copies of the Xmas issue of the Airman's Post. During these past two weeks we have been haunted by a circle of pleading, reproachful eyes and the plaintive murmur of wistful voices enjoining us to sell them "Just one more copy of the Xmas Post". But to all these soul-stirring pleas we had, from necessity, but one answer to give: "Sorry, but there just isn't any more".

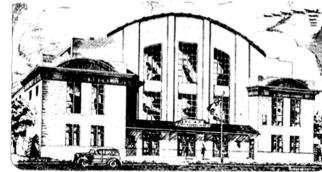
A blow by blow description of Post sales on the Arena floor November 30th furnished this brief but highly eloquent account of the event: Going, going, gone! Yes, in the space of a short two hours the big stacks of Airman's Posts dwindled and vanished like Marshal Rommel's forces in Africa. In many homes across this fair Dominion, mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, cousins and sweethearts, will now have read the Xmas issue and applauded your thoughtfulness in sending it home. It has become an every day occurrence now for some harassed looking soul to rush into the editorial office waving a letter and mumbling: "Got to get a copy of the last Airman's Post—mother's raising Cain because I forgot to send one home".

By these signs and tokens we know how popular our station publication is, and we also know that the increase in price, made necessary by the prohibition on advertising, hasn't in the slightest way dimmed your enthusiasm for the Post. But then why should it? The Airman's Post is your magazine—there is no substitute for it—therefore it is only natural that you should want it to continue, to prosper, and to flourish!

### THE AIRMAN'S POST

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## EDITORIALS

### "A Light To Steer By"

A New Year Message from the Most Rev. Derwyn T. Owen, Primate of the Church of England in Canada

Through "The Airman's Post" I have the opportunity, which anyone in the Empire would welcome, of



Most Rev. D. T. Owen

sending a word of seasonal greeting to the members of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

A word of thanks is customary after Christmas, but in this case I would send to the members of the Air Force my thanks now. The thanks of all our people go out to that great Force for what they are doing for us. It is with gratitude in my heart I write this letter.

This is a message concerning the coming into the world of the Leader of all men. He is the greatest Hero of all. He stands supreme. He knows the way through life, and has promised His guidance and help to all who ask it. May His leadership and friendship be ours through the trials and troubles of the coming year.

I send to all in the Royal Canadian Air Force, wherever they may be, my thanks for all that is being done by its members in the great struggle in which we are engaged. May the memories and hopes, and, above all, the central truth of Christmas bring strength and comfort, and light to steer by through the New Year.

I close with the old salutation—"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all."



P/O J. B. G. KELSALL

When he is not lecturing on current affairs to the men in uniform Pilot Officer Kelsall is a Navigation Instructor at No. 1 C.N.S., Rivers. Born in Trinidad, B.W.I., P/O Kelsall is the second son of the Hon. T. M. Kelsall, O.B.E., and Mrs. Kelsall of San Fernando, Trinidad.

P/O Kelsall practiced law in civil life while holding a reserve commission as lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Trinidad Local Forces. He resigned his commission in July of 1941 and came to Ottawa to enlist in the R.C.A.F.

### AN ANALYSIS

P/O J. B. G. Kelsall

THE struggle which is now raging throughout the world is not really one global war, but two distinct and separate wars. There is first, the European war in which Russia, America and the British Commonwealth are battling against Germany and Italy. Then, far away on the other side of the world is the Pacific war, in which Japan fights America, the British Commonwealth and China. Not only are these two separate wars, but they bear very little similarity to each other. Indeed, about the only thing they have in common is the fact that the English speaking nations are involved in both.

The dominating factor in any analysis of the war situation today, is the inability of the United Nations to fight both of these wars at once. According to the most reliable figures available, the United Nations are still outnumbered by the Axis in men and weapons. That this is so is due to an appalling short-sightedness on the part of those leaders of the democracies who held power during the eight years prior to 1939. During that period Germany was known to be planning and building a huge army. But, fooled by Hitler's protestations that it was intended for use against the Soviet Union, and misled by their spectral fear of the spread of Communism, those leaders not only took no steps to enforce the provisions of the Versailles Treaty, prohibiting a German Army, but actually allowed British and American capital to help in building it. Worse yet, afraid of having to answer unpleasant questions, those leaders took no effective steps to arm the democracies as a safeguard against Hitler's changing his plans.

And so, in 1939, when Hitler did so change his plans, having apparently decided, rightly, that the democracies were far weaker than the Soviet Union, we were caught entirely and absolutely unprepared. Nor did we shake off our disastrous lethargy until long after the commencement of hostilities. It took the collapse of France and the imminent threat of invasion to awaken the British people completely. It took Japan's aggression at Pearl Harbor to jolt the Americans out of the opium dream of isolation. Indeed, there are many signs that the Americans are not even now fully awake and fighting.

As a result of all this, the first three years of the conflict have seen a series of painful and costly delaying actions fought by us to gain time for the mobilization, arming and training of our armies. We gained a badly needed respite when America's increasing participation and final entry into the war forced Hitler's Russian venture. He had hoped by that ill-fated move to conquer Russia's vast resources for use in the huge final Battle of the Continents which he could plainly see approaching.

(Continued on page 6)

### THE GERMAN TRIANGLE

(Hitler stands behind a three-cornered frontier with 6,000 miles of land and seacoast to defend, indicates the New York Times in this editorial).

It is two thousand miles from the German outposts on the Spanish border to the North Cape of Norway. It is another two thousand miles from the North Cape to the Caucasian oil fields. It is two thousand more miles from the Caucasus back to the Spanish border. Within those lines lies the triangle of German power as the fourth winter of the war begins. Hitler stands behind a three-cornered frontier with six thousand miles of land and seacoast to defend.

At nearly every point along these lines the German position is, or soon will be, exposed to direct attack. On the west side of the triangle Britain already dominates both sea and air. What remains of the German Navy, except for submarines, is bottled up in continental ports. The initiative in the air attack has passed to British hands. There are a hundred points on the Bay of Biscay and the long Norwegian coast that can be hit by commando raids in steadily greater force.

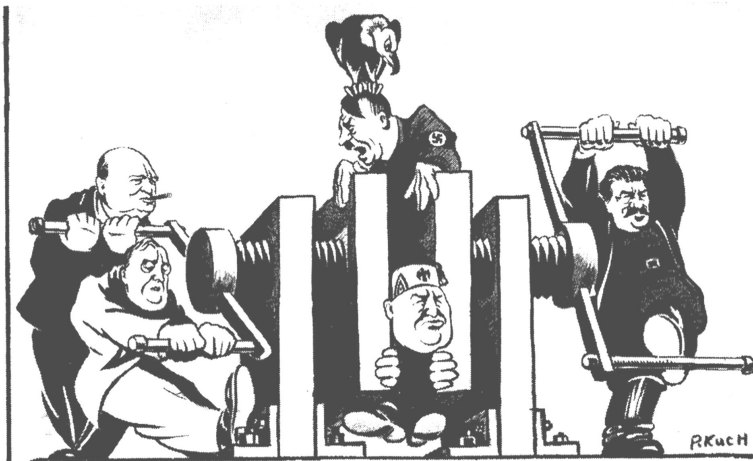
On the east side of the triangle there is war every foot of the way across the plains of Russia. There is war; and there is cold; and there is the fierce hatred of people who have scorched their land rather than let it yield an ounce of sustenance to the invader.

(Continued on page 14)



1943

## "SQUEEZE PLAY" — 1943 VERSION



### ADOLPH HITLER & COMPANY Branches at Tokio & Rome

In Account With: The United Nations

Sirs:

In an office at Munich, Bavaria, on September 29, 1938, our company entered into a contract with you in which we paid over on the spot, certain quantities of our national self respect, the larger part of our peace-of-mind, and our entire world supply of Human Security. We received in return your note, backed by your promise to deliver a commodity which we then desired. A commodity which was called . . . " . . . I bring you peace in our time."

Instead of delivering that commodity for which we had paid you such a high price, you substituted another commodity called: "No Peace Whatsoever in Your Time!" We understand that substitutes are widely used in your country, but we found this one entirely unacceptable. Hence we have suspended all further payments to you of our self respect; our national honor.

You will doubtless be surprised to learn, therefore, that in spite of the condition of your credit, our board of trustees has extended your account to an unlimited extent, and we are already producing merchandise for you in quantities we hope will exceed your expectations. In fact we are making sure you will be quite surprised. Concentrating exclusively on these orders from you and your Branch Offices at Tokio and Rome, we have renovated our plant, re-designed our machinery, employed twenty million additional men and women in our factory, and we have, incidentally, re-designed our daily lives.

Your often expressed statement that our merchandise would arrive too late to be of any use has caused us deep concern, but as you are our most favored customer today, we have taken steps not to disappoint you by delivery that is too little and too late.

Roughly speaking we are in the middle of a two year order for you, consisting of:

- Some 165,000 airplanes.
- A mere 120,000 tanks.
- A little matter of 1800 merchant ships,
- 69 nice new aircraft carriers, and considerable other such land and sea-going merchandise that we wish to surprise you with.

Add to this a billion or two articles of equipment including two and three ton bombs, flame-throwers, anti-aircraft cannon and some thirteen million of our famous Garand rifles. We are quite proud of this line of rifles and we know you will soon have an opportunity to see them in action.

The last time we did business with your firm, between 1914 and 1918, the cost of the entire transaction, in terms of our money alone, was four hundred billion dollars altogether. We are aware that we must now double or even treble this amount, making a grand total of at least nine hundred billion dollars cost to all the shareholders of the United Nations. Nine hundred billion or a trillion dollars! Even for a firm as substantial as ours, you will recognize that this is a remarkable amount of capitalization. Our English shareholders pay 60% of their earnings to finance your order and not one of the richest of them is able to have more than twenty thousand dollars a year.

We, of course, are active in this regard too, giving more than half of our national income to you for this year alone, which we expect to increase

before long. In terms of our American monetary unit, this order of yours will cost the world almost a trillion dollars.

Then, of course, we are preparing you an unspecified number of our Norden bomb sights, through which so many of our boys would like to get their first views of the beauties of the scenery of Berlin and Tokio. All of this merchandise we have earmarked exclusively for A. Hitler & Branches, and it is shortly to be delivered. It will please you to know that we are paying all transportation charges ourselves! While we may be unable to notify you of exact time of delivery, due to conditions which you will understand, as far as possible we will use airplane express. This applies particularly to the delivery of some of our finest one, two and three ton bombs!

We are financing your order among our own shareholders; our company of the United Nations being, as you know, owned by its employees . . . numbering some one billion people in the United Countries.

Now Herr Hitler, to return to your business statement, there is the little matter of payment. We have set a price on these services rendered, which we feel you should have made clear right now. The price our shareholders request is,

- Item: All of your concentration camps.
- Item: All of your torture chambers.
- Item: All of your tribunals where men may be condemned to death without trial by a jury of their peers.
- Item: All of your schoolrooms where you teach children that to kill is better than to love.
- Item: All of the colleges where you teach youth that one race is born noble and great and another race is born to evil and to slavery.
- Item: All of your lecture halls where you preach that woman is an animal fit only to cook and bear children.
- Item: All of the locked churches where men once preached that no leader could take the throne of God.

If this payment seems somewhat unorthodox to your firm, it is due to the fact that many of our shareholders lived in Greece where a thousand people starve to death each day; in Poland where a million children lie buried in nameless graves; at Crete and Lidice, and at a city called Rotterdam.

These shareholders are inactive today, since they are all dead, but for them is requested the further payment that we someday place you where you can meet them all, face to face, and look into their eyes. They wish to see you personally. This desire must be fulfilled.

Oddly enough, however, most of our shareholders in the company of the United Nations do not demand that we exact impossible terms for the services rendered. We do not demand as payment an impossibly perfect world, or even a new world, but we will demand a chance to build a new world together, facing our enormous problems as men among men, not as men among beasts.

Failing to collect any of these things, our shareholders are still fully satisfied to carry our business to its conclusion and consider it entirely worth while if, as PAYMENT IN FULL, we receive only the key to the prison into which you have locked the brain, heart and soul of man!

Sincerely yours,

THE SHAREHOLDERS of the UNITED NATIONS.

NOTE: This is part of a letter that was written and broadcast by John Nesbitt on September 22, 1942, on the NBC coast-to-coast network.

## Arrivals, Departures, Stork Reports and Mergers



### SQUADRON LEADER KNIGHT LEAVES US FOR COMMAND DUTIES AT SOURIS

With this issue we say goodbye regretfully to an officer who has been in our midst since this Depot came into existence, and one who played a major role in its establishment. As Administrative Officer and second in command at this station Squadron Leader Knight fulfilled his duties capably and efficiently. His friendly understanding and interest in all matters effecting personnel were qualities that won him the esteem of all ranks at No. 2 Manning Depot.

The sincere good wishes of officers, N.C.O.'s and airmen journey with him.

### PERSONAL POSTSCRIPTS

Pilot Officer J. B. Comfort, Educational Branch, posted from Dauphin, Manitoba.

Fight Lieutenant F. R. Attridge, Medical Officer, transferred from Rivers, Manitoba.

Flying Officer R. J. Coates, Educational Branch, posted here from Claresholm, Alberta.

Sergeant J. C. Kearney posted from Rockcliffe, Ontario, to the Selection Board at this Depot.

Sergeant G. L. Collicut and Private J. L. McManus, Canadian Dental Corps, have been transferred to Winnipeg.

Sergeant A. H. Waterer of the Physical Training Staff has been posted to Davidson, Sask.

Corporal E. W. Haworth of the victualling staff has been transferred to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Corporal J. Rawlings, Disciplinarian, transferred to MacDonald, Man.

Squadron Leader H. G. Osborne and Squadron Leader G. G. Elder of the Medical Staff were recent visitors at Command Headquarters, Winnipeg.

### The Visitors Book

Flight Lieutenant A. R. Cumming, Command Provost Marshal, Flight Lieutenant G. E. Bryce and Flying Officer T. L. Byrne were recent visitors to the Depot.

Squadron Leader P. Malcolm of the Equipment Branch at No. 2 Training Command, Winnipeg, was a recent visitor to this Depot.

Sergeant W. H. Bowness, Administration Staff, has returned to the

Depot after taking a course at the School of Administration, Trenton, Ont.

### LAC. AND MRS. JAMES MALCOLM CELEBRATE SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

In the last war the publication issued by the Gordon Highlanders announced the marriage of a member in its ranks, James Malcolm.

In this issue of the Airman's Post the announcement is made that LAC. James Malcolm and his wife have celebrated their silver wedding anniversary.

The genial Scot is attached to the medical staff of the station hospital. He is known and respected by hundreds of airmen who have been hospitalized during the past year or more.

With his many friends who attended the celebration on Dec. 4, the staff of the depot hospital and Post join in wishing the couple happiness in the years to come.

### ATTENTION, MEN GOING ON LEAVE!

The hospitality of many Winnipeg homes is available to men at this Depot who make proper application on a form provided for that purpose and which will be found attached to the East end portion of the stage wall near the entrance. Or a direct request may be forwarded to the Central Volunteer Bureau, Room 39, 460 Main Street, Winnipeg their telephone numbers: 29100, 23697. Applications must be sent in at least two days before leaves start. For more detailed information consult the Y.M.C.A. representatives in their office near the Arena stage.

And now, a few simple rules that might be observed when you visit these Winnipeg homes:

- (1) Show your appreciation for the hospitality given.
- (2) Never take an unfair advantage of this voluntary kindness.
- (3) Conduct yourself in such a manner that these hospitable citizens of Winnipeg will welcome a return visit from you or any other member of the Air Force.
- (4) Always remember that the good reputation of the Force is in your keeping while you are a guest in these homes.
- (5) If you find it impossible to accept an invitation after it is given—wire or telephone the hostess that you won't be coming. This is a courtesy that she will appreciate.

"I get wonderful recipes over the radio," gushed the young bride.

"I got two this morning, one for Egyptian stew and one for a never-fail stain remover."

Hubby tasted the stew with which he had just been served, thoughtfully.

"Which is this?" he asked.



### ASSISTANT SECTION OFFICER BUCKINGHAM

The first airwomen to be posted to this station, the first to be enlisted as a clerk accountant and a member of the first squadron of airwomen to serve outside of Canada, has arrived at this station, posted to the pay office.

Holder of all these "firsts" is Assistant Section Officer Rosina Buckingham.

Miss Buckingham has yet another "first" to her credit. She is the first member of the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. in the accounting department to win a commission.

Miss Buckingham enlisted in the Women's Division in November, 1941, the 55th recruit. She served at Toronto, was later posted to the No. 6 Service Flying Training School at Dunville, Ont.; then at the Technical Training School at St. Thomas; then to Newfoundland.

A native of Winnipeg, Miss Buckingham was employed with the Great West Life Assurance Co.

### AIR VICE-MARSHAL SHEARER PROMOTED TO OTTAWA POST

Air Vice-Marshal A. B. Shearer, commanding officer of No. 2 air training command, one of the directors of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, has been promoted to director of economy at R.C.A.F. headquarters, Ottawa.

He is being replaced by another veteran flier of the last war, Air Commodore T. A. Lawrence, air administration officer for No. 2 Training Command. Prior to his appointment here last spring he was C.O. of the Trenton air school. He was largely responsible for laying the basic plans for Canada's system of coastal defense by air.

Air Vice-Marshal Shearer, earlier in this war, was director of works and buildings to the R.C.A.F. Under his direction the Commonwealth Air Training Plan in this command, which includes 20 schools, was put into successful operation.



"No, you can't go to the club. You're staying home tonight."



"S.O.S."

Dear Cupid,  
My heart is to let, once again,  
And as usual, in need of repair.  
Now please do not think that I want  
to complain.  
But I should like a tenant this time,  
who'd remain,  
For I'm tired of being given the air.  
He need not be handsome so long  
as he's true,  
And he need not be rich, to suit me.  
But please, when you hand out your  
"orders to view"  
Remember my weakness for Air  
Force blue,  
And oblige,

Yours sincerely,

F.C.

Freda L. Cookson.



THE NASTY MAN!

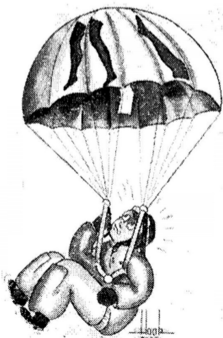
There's an Air Force story about the curious old lady who had pestered a Flight Sergeant to exasperation with silly questions until he was driven to "stuffing" her.

"And why do you have the crown and three stripes?" she asked.

"Madam," said the Sergeant, "we all receive a crown when we are married and a stripe for every addition to the family."

A week later her grandson, recently promoted a sergeant, came home on leave. "What do you think of these?" he asked, proudly displaying his sleeve.

"Henry!" shrieked the old lady. "you ought to be ashamed of yourself!"



"So that's what happens when they get a new director of economy at Ottawa."

# SLIP-STREAM-LINES

"Breezy Bits from the Barracks"



"2,000 men aboard and I get marooned with you."

## SCOTCH AND WRY

At a political meeting in a remote Scotch border town I was defending Lloyd George's Insurance Act as a practical application of the Sermon on the Mount. A shepherd rose and asked: "Ye consider that this Insurance Act is in keepin' with the Bible, sir?"

"I do."

"Is it true that under the Act there's a maternity benefit and that a woman gets it whether she's married or not?"

"That's right."

"Well, sir, how d'ye explain this? The Bible says the wages of sin is death and the Act says 30 shillings."

—John Buchan, Pilgrim's Way

Mountaineer—Doc, I want you to look at my son-in-law. I shot at him yesterday and took a piece out of his ear.

Doctor—Shame on you, shooting at your son-in-law.

Mountaineer—Huh. He wasn't my son-in-law when I shot him.

## WHO GOES WHERE?

Drill Sarge: "Supposing you are on guard duty some dark night, suddenly from behind you somebody comes up and wraps their arms around you so you can't use your rifle. What would you do then?"

Draftee: "I'd say, Let's go home!"

Air Craftsman 2 Jones had been summoned to an officer's room in a hotel. By mistake he arrived at the room occupied by a pair of newlyweds whose name was also Jones.

He knocked and a man asked: "Who is there?"

"AC2 Jones," came the reply. A woman's voice shrieked, "Henry, I told you to plug that keyhole!"

## BARE FACTS

Dame: "I was followed through the park tonight by a Marine, but I finally gave him the slip."

"Doll: "That's all right, I'll let you have one of mine."

## DOUBLE HEADER

The absent-minded professor and his wife left their apartment to attend a lecture. While the wife pressed the elevator button the professor felt the top of his head.

"Wait a minute, dear," he exclaimed. "I forgot my hat."

He went back to his apartment and was gone for several minutes. When he finally rejoined his wife at the elevator, he was still without his hat.

His wife eyed her husband's bare head.

"Where's your hat?" she asked. The professor's eyes widened.

"My goodness!" he cried. "Did I forget that, too?"



GOSH!

A bunch of the boys in the 37th Fighter Squadron, waiting for a low ceiling to lift, were killing time by discussing parachute jumping. Lt. John Kay propped his feet on a desk and told about the oddest parachute jump he ever saw:

"Yep, a young fellow dropped out of the sky on our farm," he said. "All he had for a parachute was a table cloth with the corners tied together, but he wasn't hurt a mite. Naturally, we were curious and here's what he told us:

"My Paw, who helped the Wright brothers build airplane engines, set out today to prove the well-known statement that even the kitchen table will fly if you put enough power in it.

"We took our table out to the airport, fastened an engine onto it, twisted the prop, and climbed on. The table rolled along on its casters but wouldn't take off.

"Paw said, 'We need another leaf in the table.'

"That's what it needed all right. The table bounced along with the casters squealin' and took off, just missin' a tree. Pretty soon we ran into a flock of wild ducks. The propeller knocked the feathers off two fat mallards and not only that but dressed them. The birds lodged between the cylinders and the heat soon roasted them. Them roasted ducks looked mighty good."

"When are you going to tell us," a listener interrupted, "how you came to be floating down in a parachute made of a tablecloth?"

"Well," the parachutist replied, "I asked for a drumstick without sayin' please and Paw ordered me away from the table."

Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it; it's only good for wallowing in.



This Gremelin listened to too many soap programs.



The barber shop quartette. From left to right: George Davis, Larry Emond, Jack Taylor (manager), Walter Chandler.

### "BARBER, SPARE THOSE GOLDEN TRESSES"

By AC2 Val Werier

"Don't cut too much off, please." This plea is heard from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the barber shop in the manning depot where thousands of young men have had their baptismal service haircut.

This plea does not fall upon unkind ears—those of Jack Taylor, manager, and his three assistants, Larry Emond, George Davis and Walter Chandler.

But manning depot regulations allow the barbers no alternative. If they pay heed to the recruit's entreaty and "leave it long on top" it only means the recruit will have to visit the barber again after being checked up by a disciplinarian.

Every day a tin full of hair—about two feet deep—tells the pathetic story of ~~one~~ curls, long-nurtured wavy tresses and ear-length hair gone forever.

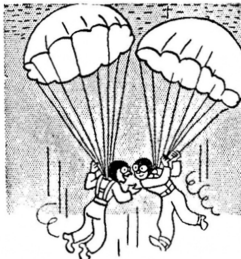
To some of recruits the state of undress of their heads come as a shock after a service haircut. They look in the mirror, turn around to make sure someone else is not standing behind.

You can imagine how different one recruit looked who came in early in December.

"I took a rule and measured his hair," recalled Jack. "It was 12 inches long."

And service regulations allow two and a half inches on top, close on the side, about one to one and a half inches above the ears.

Next to the lad with the 12-inch length hair, Mr. Taylor lists a re-



"Then she said yes."

cut whose wavy locks stretched to 11½ inches.

"The airmen look much neater with the uniform haircut," Jack said. "And its much more sanitary."

Wisps of hair curling up above a wedge cap or creeping below the Yukon winter cap does not favorably impress the public.

Most recruits get what they believe is a service haircut before they enter the manning depot. But the station disciplinarians have a different view on the matter.

"I had a haircut the day before I got here," one AC2 confided to the Airman's Post. "And within two weeks I've had five."

In summer and fall, Wednesday—the day before the Commanding Officer's inspection parade—finds sitting space at a premium in the neat, friendly barber shop. After the waiting line includes as many as 60 men.

Mr. Taylor, who has managed the shop for two years, has collected about 20,000 autographs from the men who have passed through his doors.

These signatures show that the men have come from every section of Canada and from far-flung corners of the world. One page listed Shanghai, China; Kansas City, Miss.; Revelstoke, B.C.; London, England; Pasadena, Calif. Other pages show men from India, Australia, Alaska, New Zealand.

### THE BIRD

A young man regarded the venerable bird with an appraising eye.

"You have had that parrot for a long time, Miss Ethel?" he ventured.

"Yes," was the reply. "several years."

"Quite intelligent, isn't he?"

"Very. He can imitate almost anything."

"Can he imitate the sound of a kiss?"

"No, sir," replied Ethel indignantly. "he does not attempt an imitation of a sound he is not accustomed to hear."

Parrot (reminiscently): "Wait, George dear. Will I take this bird out of the room?"

### An Analysis

(Continued from page 2)

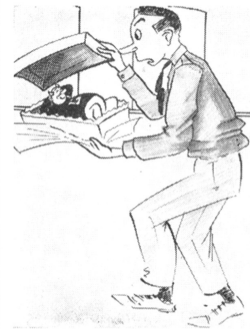
Today, we are nearing equality with the Axis, but, as I have said before, we are still not in a position to fight both wars at once. Indeed, in view of the tremendous preponderance needed for successful offensive operations now, it is doubtful whether we ever will be in such a position.

We are therefore, forced to adopt Napoleon's strategy of divide and conquer. Germany and Italy, controlling, as they do, the entire industry of Europe, present a real and more immediate threat than does Japan. And so the United Nation's strategic plan calls for a continuance of a long slow delaying action in the Pacific, while the bulk of our strength is concentrated in Europe against Germany and Italy.

We have been considerably helped in our execution of this plan by the fact that the relationship between the European Axis Nations and Japan is an alliance in name only. Japan is not a Fascist State, but, if anything, a Theocracy. She has nothing whatever in common with her Axis partners and has so far failed to take the steps which would have helped Germany most, namely, an invasion of India in the spring and/or an invasion of Russia's Maritime Provinces, to coincide with the battle of Stalingrad. Instead, she concentrated all her efforts on a powerful drive Southward against Australia. This is because she realizes that there is no room in one world for two world conquerors. She expects to have to fight whoever succeeds in the European conflict, and is therefore, desperately trying to dominate the Continent of Australia and the Pacific Islands in the shortest possible time. Success would give her entire control of an area which is isolated by vast stretches of ocean, which is relatively undeveloped and which is rich in natural resources of all kinds. Given five or six years in which to consolidate her position and develop those areas, Japan could offer extremely effective opposition to any attempt to dislodge her.

Potentially Japan is an even greater threat to world security than the Fascist Nations. This is because her fighting men are motivated by idealistic, if misguided, aims, and because chiefly owing to the unenlightened and selfish policy pursued by the Occidental Nations towards the Orientals in the past, Japan is able to get a considerable degree of co-operation from the peoples of the East. Already she controls the destinies of some 240,000,000 human beings. Fortunately for the English speaking nations, her industry is not, as yet, sufficiently well developed to support a full-scale modern war, such as is now being waged in Europe.

If the facts which have been released about our recent naval operations in the Solomons are full and accurate, it would seem unlikely that Japan will succeed in her major aim the invasion of Australia. Yet, since



"Take my eye! It's one of those darned Gremlins!"

delaying actions allow the initiative to rest always with the enemy, we must expect further reverses in that theatre of war. It is probable that the Japanese will continue to have minor successes until such time as we have succeeded in disposing of the Axis threat in Europe. Indeed, if that were not the case, it would indicate that we were not efficiently carrying out one policy of concentration in one theatre. In the European Theatre the new Anglo-American armies have commenced to manoeuvre for position. By next spring or summer, we should have equipped and trained sufficiently large forces to mount a full scale offensive in Europe against the Axis. Such an offensive cannot be successful unless two conditions are fulfilled:

(1) The Red Army, still more than twice as large as the combined Anglo-American forces, must be capable of mounting an effective, simultaneous offensive in the East.

(2) The Anglo-American armies must have adequate bases from which to develop their attack. One such base is England, but the Dieppe raid proved that the Todt line along the Western coastline of Europe is a very formidable obstacle. Moreover after the Todt line has been stormed there is still the Maginot line, now facing West, and then the West wall, strongest of the three.

The operations now proceeding in North Africa, have as their aim, the insurance of these two conditions. First, they are diversionary actions, designed to relieve the pressure on Russia. Secondly they aim at the provision of bases from which, next year, a full scale attack can be delivered on southern Germany through Italy, the Balkans, and if possible, southern France. As to whether those bases will be established in North Africa or in Europe itself, depends on how quickly we can break through the Axis holding action now centered on Tunisia. It is a race between our armies and the German engineers who are, even now, hurriedly fortifying the threatened areas. The Axis High Command is well aware of the seriousness of the threat and they seem to be prepared to withdraw dan-

(Continued on page 12)





**DISNEY TO GO TO ENGLAND TO INVESTIGATE GREMLINS**

The Gremlins, those interfering little people who were first brought to light, we're informed by an Irishman in the R.A.F., have become practically an international legend, and even Hollywood has caught the fever. Or, to be rather more specific, one studio in Hollywood—Walt Disney's—is interested.

That's why Walt is planning a trip to Britain very soon to beard the little six-inch personages in their lair, or kingdom, or wherever the fibbertigibbets, widgees, finnellas and spandules congregate.

Disney has signed a deal with Flight Lieut. Roald Dahl, assistant air attache at the British Embassy, in Washington, whose real story about the Gremlins is paying royalties to the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, and expects to turn this tale into one of his inimitable movies. But he wants to get all his material first-hand, hence the projected trip across the ocean.



THE MANETTES

The four attractive and gifted young ladies above are from Brandon and have contributed much to station entertainment. Left to right: Lillian Forshaw, Gloria Quayle, Betty Veale, Tudy Quayle.

**RIP CHORDS DEVASTATING SHOW**

A mighty volume of laughter, cheers and applause was the tribute paid by a packed audience of airmen and their friends watching the hilarious antics of the famous Rip Chords on the Manning Depot stage, Sunday evening, Dec. 6th.

In a variety program that covered just about everything in the way of rollicking entertainment, the Rip Chords dished it out in big mirthful doses in a three hour show.

A newcomer, Nobby Lewis, scored with Cockney dialect and a song. Old Timers, Paddy Buchanan and Jack Patterson were as popular and entertaining as ever. Newcomer Frank Isherwood gave out with a smooth baritone, and Sam Cox presented Dickens' impersonations.

Other names, old and new, that contributed much to the success of the show included John Sexton, Eric Wringe, Gerry Death, Eddie Edwards, George Monk, Jimmy Walton, Bob Chatburn, Trevor Bayram, Bob Smollan, Roland Ayers and Kenny Elliott.



This Gremlin is thinking up some new brand of skullduggery.

**OFFICERS' DANCE COLORFUL EVENT**

Converted for the occasion into an attractive ballroom the Arena floor Saturday night, December 12, was the scene of a delightful dance when the officers of this depot played host to the officers and their ladies from No. 12 S.F.T.S. and A4 Artillery Training Centre.

The guests were received by Wing Commander H. G. Reid and Mrs. Reid, Squadron Leader A. R. Knight and Mrs. Knight. A pleasing program of dance music was provided by the station orchestra. An attractive floor show added to the evening's entertainment.

**SANTA CLAUS VISITS NO. 2 "M" DEPOT**

December 21 was a gala occasion for the children of officers and airmen at No. 2 Manning Depot when Santa Claus in person visited the Arena to distribute gifts and candy to the little folks.

For the occasion a huge decorated Xmas tree was erected on the Arena floor groaning under the weight of all those good things that make little hearts go pitty-pat with joy and excitement.

Genial, jovial Santa called up the happy youngsters one by one and presented them with individual gifts. Refreshments were served and a program of entertainment was provided for the mothers and children.

In charge of the event was the entertainment committee assisted by Mrs. A. R. Knight, Mrs. F. E. Wood, Mrs. I. A. Norris.

**FORTITUDE**

(Stratford Beacon-Herald)

After two years of service in Malta, Major Francis Gerard, a British army officer, says: "There are degrees of courage, and the rarest and purest form is that of fortitude—courage which endures, which faces terror, discomfort, pain and loss day after day, week after week, year after year—courage which goes on through sleeplessness, fatigue, disorganization and hunger." Malta is the vallant example.

**CITY HYDRO CONCERT PARTY PROVIDE PLEASING SHOW**

A show that sparkled from beginning to end with one snappy number after another was Sunday's City Hydro Concert party under the skillful direction of Bea Fredericks and Ed. Quigley. These two gifted artists provided one of the highlights of the evening with their Apache and Drum-Boogie dances.

A sweater girl chorus, Hollywood style, provided stimulating entertainment that was roundly applauded by the delighted audience of airmen.

Also worthy of special mention were the guitar solos by Jane McLean and the acrobatic Robbins sisters numbers. The roll of honor also included instrumental and dance numbers by Georgina Cole, Vic Powers, Kay Holmes, Niccolai Gelmych, Eileen McClarty, Bill Brygadys, Lee McKenzie, Bill Komar, Mary Morse, Bill Kay, Vivienne Davy, Shirley Hqare, and Ida Phaneuf.

A man in the insane asylum sat fishing over a flower bed. A visitor approached, and wishing to be affable asked, "How many have you caught?" "You're the ninth," was the reply.



**HAVE YOU VISITED THE LEGION HALL YET?**

A friendly atmosphere that invites you to relax and enjoy its many facilities for pleasure and fun is that provided by the Legion Hall just a few doors north of Russar on 8th Street. Genial host Bill Jackson is always on hand with a friendly word of welcome and greeting that will make you feel right at home. In fact if you're feeling a trifle glum and blue we recommend you to get somewhere in the neighborhood of Bill's infectious grin and you'll forget your troubles pretty quick. That's the way Bill affects people. And that same friendliness radiates through every part of the Legion Hall.

The ground floor has ping pong tables, a stage and piano for impromptu concerts and sing songs. The second floor has tables and chairs for reading, writing, and games, with a piano for use there too. A quiet study room is available to service personnel on the third floor. Besides all this there is a dry canteen where tea, coffee and sandwiches may be obtained at very nominal prices.

Bill is anxious to get some teams lined up for carpet bowling so drop around you fellows and get acquainted. The hall is open seven days a week and all members of the armed forces, men and women, are welcome.



JOSEPH STALIN

**THE RUSSIAN COLOSSUS**

Russia, in 1937 and 1938, had more than 15,000,000 trained men. These men had begun their training at the age of six in their youth organizations. As they grew older it included intensive physical exercises, military drill, marksmanship, parachute-jumping, glider practice. About 1,500,000 of these superb physical specimens were called to the colors each year. By the time Hitler launched his attack the Russians must have had close to 18,000,000 excellently trained officers and men available.

To one familiar with Russia's resources and industrial power, and above all Russia's people, Hitler's assault on the U.S.S.R. seemed foolhardy. The Soviet Union, embracing one sixth of the earth's surface, contains close to one tenth of the world's population—170,000,000 people. The Russian people have always lived hard lives; they have endured the same conditions as our own pioneer ancestors, and have developed many of the same virtues. Their country has immense agricultural resources and is largely self-sufficient in almost all the strategic raw materials—notably oil. Prior to Hitler's attack, the Soviet Union stood second only to the United States in the production of tractors, harvester combines, motor trucks, freight cars and locomotives; only Germany and the United States produced more steel; only Germany, Britain and the United States produced more coal.

"Have you heard ho wa bustle and a historical romance are alike"  
 "No, how?"  
 "Both are fictitious tales, based on stern reality."



**BOONDOGGLING?**

Here is a story about Russia in the days of the Tsars. Perhaps it helps to explain why the Tsars are no more.

In the park of St. Petersburg's Winter Palace there was a beautiful lawn, and on that lawn was a bench, and next to that bench there were two guards. Every three hours the guards were changed. People crowded around to watch the colorful spectacle.

One day an ambitious young lieutenant was put in charge of the Palace Guard. He started wondering why he should send two of his men to guard a harmless old bench out on the beautiful old lawn.

But orders are orders, and the guard was changed regularly at three-hour intervals. Even so, the lieutenant was an idealist, and young, and he worried.

He started asking questions but got no results. Nobody could tell him why the bench had to be guarded.

But he didn't give up. In the end he discovered a cobwebby little old man tucked away in a corner of the Palace, the Palace historian, who was said to know everything concerning the Palace.

"Yes," the old man said. "I remember. During the reign of Peter the Great two hundred years ago, the bench got a fresh coat of paint. The Tsar was afraid that the ladies in waiting might dirty their dresses, so he ordered one guard to watch the bench. Then in 1908 all the guards of the Palace were doubled for fear of a revolution. So the bench has had two guards ever since."



**A SALUTE TO**



**A**FTER the fall of France in June, 1940, Great Britain stood alone before the Nazi might. It is true, of course, that the Dominions and colonies stood by her side. But although they were ready and willing to defend Britain, their troops were not armed thoroughly nor trained. After Dunkirk, and the tragic loss of men and equipment, Britain stood alone against Hitler armed only by the gallant words of Mr. Churchill, the incredible heroism of the R.A.F., and the unconquerable spirit of Britain. Today Britain fights with a great company of men called the United Nations, who have joined her to fight to the end against their enemies.

**WHO ARE THE UNITED NATIONS?**

The United States of America, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia. That is the roll call of peoples scattered throughout the earth who are pledged to destroy Hitlerism.

**What Do They Stand For?**

First of all they have subscribed to the program of purposes and principles embodied in the Atlantic Charter of August 14, 1941.

First, Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second, They desire to see no territorial changes that do no accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, They will endeavour, with due respect for their existing obli-



WINSTON CHURCHILL



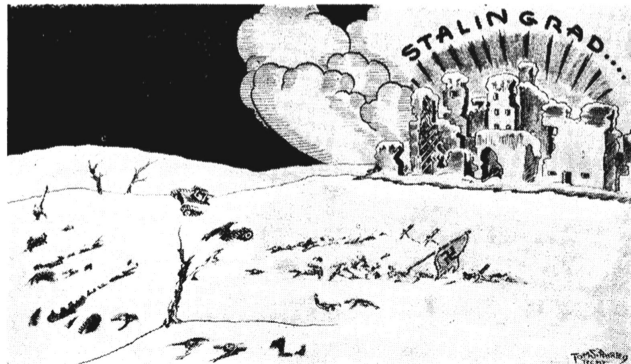
gations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity.

Fifth, They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security;

Sixth, After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, They believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come



"White Christmas"



# OUR ALLIES



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT



to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea, or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

Secondly they all declared on January 1, 1942, "being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands, and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage and brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world.

## ALLIED PLANE OUTPUT SOARS ABOVE AXIS

The United Nations are confronting the Axis with a total monthly production of war planes nearly three times that of Germany, Italy and Japan combined.

This gigantic output of bombers, fighters, interceptors, pursuits, dive bombers, cargo planes and trainers already is beginning to sweep the Axis bat of death from the skies.

It is not possible to give fully detailed figures due to military restrictions. Latest reliable estimates, however, put United Nations monthly output of all war planes for November at about the following minimums:

United States, 5,000 plus; Britain, 2,300 plus; Russia, 2,300 plus; Canada and Australia combined, about 900.

## THE FORCES OF FREEDOM—AND WHAT THEY REPRESENT

### POPULATION

The 68,000,000 people of the British Commonwealth, together with the Americans, form the most homogeneous block among the United Nations. Their accents differ, their ways differ, but by and large they respect the same things and are united in their hatred of Hitlerism. This group of people, while not so numerous as the Russians, Indians or Chinese, is stronger in military naval and economic strength than any other section of the United Nations.

In terms of number China, with its population of 423,000,000, is the strongest member. But the Chinese are still potentially rather than actually strong. They still have to be armed. Of their bravery and unending resistance to the Japs, with inadequate equipment, no one can speak too highly.

### POLITICAL LINEUP

Together the United Nations control approximately 29,783,000 square miles of territory. Their people (free from Axis domination) number more than 1,300,000,000, altogether they number about a billion and a half. On the other side, the Axis nations dominate about 3,082,000 square miles of territory with a population of approximately 521,505,000. The Axis armies totalled before the Russian campaign about 10,000,000 to 13,000,000 men and were better trained and equipped than the 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 soldiers of the United Nations. Now the Allies are catching up.



### ECONOMIC LINEUP

The United Nations control the larger part of the earth's resources. They account for 78% of the world's oil, 67% of its coal, 63% of its iron and 64% of its wheat. Nations friendly to the Allies control another 8% of the world's oil.

The Axis has 3% of the world's oil, 29% of its coal, 27% of its iron and 21% of its wheat. German plane production at peak capacity totals 28,000 per year. President Roosevelt's schedule calls for 60,000 planes in 1942, and 125,000 in 1943.

### STRATEGY

In terms of strategy the Allies have failed, because they have been on the defensive. Each little European nation waited, numbed with terror while its neighbours were conquered one by one. And after the fall of France, Britain had to pass desperate hours parrying blows with her enemies until she was strong enough to strike.

We need more arms and fewer heroes. This war has produced some of the greatest heroes of all time: from the airmen who won the Battle of Britain to the garrison at Tobruk, from Malta to the Battle of the Plate. These men were heroes because they fought and are fighting against overwhelming odds. The Allied Nations must outproduce the Axis, the United Nations will win by efficiency and overwhelming power, not gallant last ditch stands. We are outproducing the Axis; we must learn to outshoot him, and win by taking the offensive.



CHIANG KAI-SHEK

## CHINA'S MAN OF THE HOUR

"THE present struggle is between freedom and slavery. I venture to suggest to my brethren, the Indian people, that in this most critical moment in the history of civilization our two peoples should exert themselves to the utmost in the cause of freedom for all mankind, for only in a free world could the Chinese and Indian peoples obtain their freedom."

The speaker was 54-year-old Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, supreme commander of the Chinese armies. The occasion—Chiang's visit to India on a mission to investigate India's military might, her relations with Britain, and her ability to co-operate in building a new road to China.

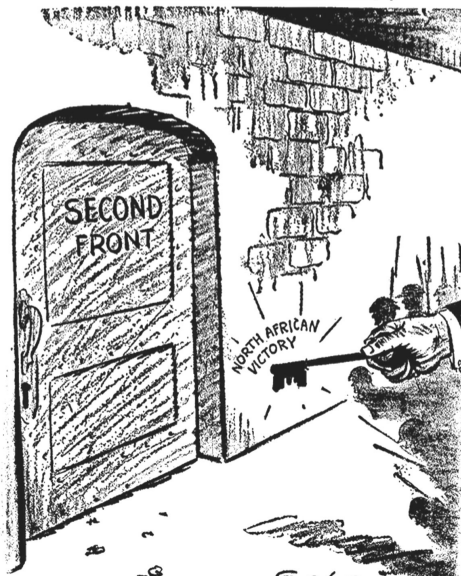
Chiang, recently appointed allied commander in China, is a handsome, commanding figure, lean and graceful. He holds himself erect, his step is springy, his voice is strong. He looks very fit. There is gray now in his moustache and in his closely cropped hair. But his black eyes are still keen. His face, in repose, is gentler than it was in the old civil war days; his smile is friendly. He gives the impression of inner spiritual resources and of great reserve strength.

...The greatest achievement of the General's life was his work in uniting China. What westerners do not realize is that China, before the war, was an immense conglomeration of races, creeds, tongues, ideas. For the greater part of his life, Chiang had to wage a continuous battle against graft, corruption, red tape, disunity, apathy and ignorance in order to weld China into a united nation.

Life is a one-way street. No matter how many detours you take, none of them leads back. And once you know and accept that, life becomes much simpler. Because then you know you must do the best you can with what you have and what you are and what you have become.



## THE LONG AWAITED KEY ?



—Christian Science Monitor

## Between The Book Ends

How about making a New Year's Resolution to read a book a month? If "An apple a day keeps the doctor away", then "A book a month will cure a slump". The Book Reviews given monthly are suggested remedies for what ails you. Make further investigations on your own by visiting the library shelves frequently.

Take "No Other Road to Freedom" for instance, by Leland Stowe. He pictures the scene in Spain where he got his idea for the title. He says "Remember the dragon peasant who said good-bye to his wife and four small children, and how he looked back from up the road and saw them standing close together, a forlorn little group of forgotten humanity? Remember him without a gun and without any military training going to face Nazi-Fascist machine guns and Nazi-Fascist bombers, and how looking back, the peasant sighed and said to his companion it is hard to leave them—but there is no other road to freedom."

That became the author's deep conviction only after months as an isolationist, when he had gone abroad at the outbreak of the war in September, 1939. "Soon he was covering the Finnish campaign and he saw that small unified nation of 4,000,000 souls defying and holding off for months of the bitterest winter fighting, the massed strength of the Russians. He arrived in Norway just in time to see the Nazi Trojan Horse at work. He saw the Rumanians pleasure loving and tolerant, stand idly by while their politicians raped the country and prepared it for a place in Germany's kennel. He followed the Greek war through the



first amazing months of mountain fighting, when the unconquerable Hellenic Spirit pushed Mussolini's blackshirts back and back beyond the Albanian frontier." But that is enough to persuade anyone that this book is really on the "Hit Parade," don't miss it. It is in the library of the Recreation Room.

### BOOK REVIEW—"THE STORY OF SAN MICHELE"

By Dr. Axel Munthe

There are some rare books in the Manning Depot Library. Anyone who likes something really out of the ordinary should take from the shelves "The Story of San Michele" by Dr. Axel Munthe, a famous Swedish physician.

Purporting to be the story of his treasure house built over the ruins of the palace of Tiberius on the island of Capri, it turns out to be the biography of a remarkable personality. I'll wager there is no other biography just like it, for it contains the material for myriads of sensational short stories, gay, whimsical, mad, tragic, and altogether unique.

There is the time he philosophizes with the little goblin who visits him when he is sleeping in a room over a cowshed in his native Sweden. He is a bit fey, or so his Lapp friends tell him when he hibernates with them in the Northern reaches.

But he isn't always spoofing as he

relates anecdotes of his practice in Paris, working with Pasteur on hydrophobia, or with Charcot in his experiments with hypnotism, with tragic consequences to himself. There are his observations on the Cholera outbreak in Naples, and his experiences in the Messina earthquake, where he shared the hospitality of criminals who had escaped the ruined prison. But never does he take himself too seriously, and a whimsical humour permeates all of his reminiscences.

One feels Axel Munthe was so blessed with insight into the workings of the human mind and heart that he drew all people to him, and although he numbered royalty and the famous among his friends and patients, the poorest prostitute or lowliest street cleaner had as great a claim on his sympathy and attention. A great lover of animals, they too fell under his spell and many are the interesting anecdotes he relates of them. His greatest trial was the flock of neurotic women who haunted his consulting rooms, but even these he knew how to manage to their benefit. And some he loved—particularly the lovely countess with the phlegmatic husband, who robbed him of his rest and peace of mind.

Long threatened with blindness, these memoirs were dictated when he could no longer continue his active work in the world, and his beautiful San Michele could only be a memory to him.

### ONLY THE STARS ARE NEUTRAL

By Quentin Reynolds

One of Quentin Reynolds' greatest gifts as a reporter is his uncanny ability to be on the scene when world-shaking news breaks. He was in London during the critical days of the Blitz, and his books, articles, broadcasts, films and lectures did more to arouse popular support in America for Britain's cause than all the official communiques and cautious propaganda combined. When the spotlight focused the world's attention upon Russia, Quentin Reynolds was again in the center of historic events. "Only the Stars Are Neutral" is his vivid, all-out account of Russia's rallying to stop the Nazis. His personal history of the early months of the invasion, when he was virtually the only foreign correspondent who believed in Russia's ability to fight back, throws new light on the spirit and the program of that nation. Intimate stories of Russian government and military leaders, foreign diplomats, correspondents and ordinary citizens make the American reader realize all that Russia means in the plans of the United Nations. Stalin, Litvinov, Maisky, Cripps, Steinhardt, Harriman, Hopkins and Beaverbrook, as well as many others, appear in these pages in unconventional portraits.



Previously stationed at No. 5 service flying training school near Brantford, Nolan turned out many multi-colored plane mascots and insignia which now ride on the school's planes. A group who call themselves a "young squadron" use this cartoon—a bomb-dropping infant being carried by a stork.

The real story of the historic plane trip in the company of Ambassador Steinhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Litvinov and Sir Walter Monckton is told in all its fantastic detail. Even when Quentin Reynolds alighted from his plane in Cairo he was again close to a front where news was breaking. His story of the Libyan campaign is another highlight in this book of crucial events and history-making personalities.

Quentin Reynolds' large following of enthusiastic readers will agree with the publishers that "Only the Stars Are Neutral" is his most adventurous and exciting book.

### OF HUMAN BONDAGE

By W. Somerset Maugham

"It sings. It has color. It has rapture", says Theodore Dreiser of it. But it also weeps. It has gayness. It has despair. The heights of man are here. The sordidness of man is here. Maugham is universally recognized as a master of English. This mastery is revealed in the simplicity and directness of his words which are like finely constructed tools and weapons designed for tearing down the veils that enshroud the meaning of life. The story is a masterpiece of self revelation as the eyes of a sensitive boy are turned inward upon himself.

Philip Carey is a cripple and an orphan. He is not a hero and those seeking an hero will be very disappointed. He is a humble pilgrim, a product of our day caught in the maelstrom of modern life that has swept away faith in God and Man, and left so many with a life as empty and useless as a last months ration book.

In the search for life and at times the dire necessity of food, one is taken with Philip to an English school, a German University, a colony of artistic failures in Paris, a dreary business house in London, the charity wards of a London Hospital and country villages of England. Here men and women are stripped of all their artifices and their life bared. One may disagree with Philip's conclusion about life's meaning, but it is a conclusion symptomatic of our day.



New Recruit: "Say chum, where's the — — —?"





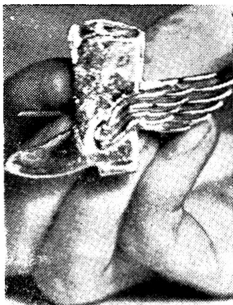
**HORROR BEYOND COMPARISON**

(From the New Statesman)

Nothing of a comparable horror (to the conduct of the Nazis in occupied lands) has happened on our earth since the dark centuries that followed the fall of the Roman Empire. But the barbarians possessed neither machine-guns nor gas-chambers, and they lacked the efficient organization of Himmler's Black Guards.

For some of their wholesale cruelties the Nazis profess motives based on perverted considerations of policy. They exterminate Czech and Polish intellectuals in order to ease their own task of dominating and exploiting these subject peoples. They can allege reasons, however false, for regarding Jews as an alien and unassimilable element in the population. But when it comes to such a deed as the slaughter at Kiev, which Mr. Churchill mentioned, of 54,000 persons, we have passed beyond the frontiers of policy and a rational conduct. Orgies on this scale can only mean that the Nazis revel in the enjoyment of their blood-lust and in the exercise of power for the sake of a perverted sensual satisfaction.

There is no understanding what Hitler and his intimates have done, first in Germany and then abroad, save on the assumption that their defiance of the Western code of morality springs from a profound psychological abnormality.



**FOR PEDESTRIAN AIRMEN**

Armstrong and Rossen were decorated with the unofficial "Order of the Flying Fool" on their return to Cairo. Emblems indicates they have walked back from a bombing fight.

**The Post Surveys The World From Brandon**

Fliers Who Walked Back Have Interested Audience



Carol Bruce, movie starlet, who is in Toronto to sing for the boys of the armed forces, hears from Warrant Officer George Armstrong, left, and Warrant Officer Gordon Rossen, the story of how they trekked 30 days through North African desert after bailing out of a disabled bomber far behind the enemy lines.

**ALL FOR ONE**

(From the New York Times)

To say that the Russians are fighting primarily for the defence of Russia and that the Chinese are fighting for the defence of China is to say that they are only doing what America is doing. We are at war with the Axis bandits because in a world by them dominated there would be no place for America and for the democratic idea which is synonymous with America. Soldiers and civilians at Stalingrad and Chungking have been fighting in a cause that a few years ago might have seemed outmoded, but which has come very much to life again—

And how can man die better  
Than facing fearful odds  
For the ashes of his fathers  
And the temples of his gods?

If in addition these patriots help to bring on a better world for everybody, so much the better.

"Halt—Who goes there?"  
"American."

"Advance and recite the second verse of 'The Star Spangled Banner'."  
"I don't know it."

"Proceed, American."

**BISHOP'S FINDING**

(Ottawa Journal)

Bishop Wells, the principal Protestant chaplain, says that on the average the English and Scottish girls the Canadian troops are marrying overseas are of a higher intellectual standard than the boys.

The great thing about being a bishop and an honorary colonel to boot is that you can say what's on your mind.

Bishop Wells has apparently studied this marriage question and looked into all the angles; and the result of his study is that he believes it is a good thing for Canada that 5,000 of our boys have married English and Scottish lassies. A good thing for the British Isles too, he adds. Particularly close ties are in this way kept bound between Canada and the Motherland, and besides it gives the boys a sense of home over there on the eve of their departure for the Continent and all it can mean.

My lady, be wary of Cupid  
And listen to the lines of this verse.  
To let a fool kiss you is stupid,  
To let a kiss fool you is worse.



**PARANOIAC REPETITIONS**

(From the New Republic)

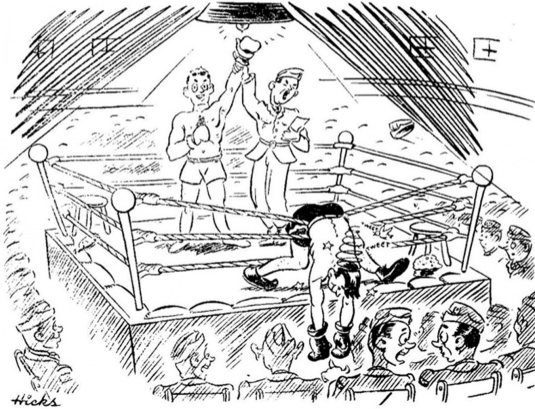
Hitler's speech proves that he has become rather like a bad phonograph record with a crack in it, and that the whole sum of Nazi morality and understanding is embedded in its paranoiac repetitions. This does not mean that Hitler is less a danger than he ever was, or that with the beginning of a great Allied offensive in Africa and Europe the Nazis will not play out their game with increasing cunning and ruthlessness to the last. But it does mean—and let us believe it and use it now, with the sun shining at last upon the hopes for a world rid of fascism—that Hitler has become obsessed with the possibility of defeat. It means that he must now threaten his own people, blame them where he once blamed the Kaiser, and so on shrieking, shrieking his guttural incoherent defiance to the end. It means that at this moment, as we begin in the field, the Nazis have in their own minds reached the end.



**BEHIND THE BARS**

Hitler's picture was among the "prisoners" put behind bars by the British desert fighters, along with thousands of Germans "in the flesh." A British Tommy is shown appraising the arch-enemy of all fighters for the cause of freedom.





It happened when someone shouted "eyes left".

### An Analysis

(Continued from page 6)

generously large numbers of men and machines, chiefly aircraft from Europe and Russia in order to meet it. For this, they have paid a heavy price in Russia where the Red Army's winter offensive is having considerable local success. Thus our North African campaign has already fulfilled one of its aims, the withdrawal of some of the German pressure on Russia in order to ensure the continued effective operations of the Red Army until the general offensive next year.

Future developments will probably be a frontal assault on the Todt line next year, combined with flanking attacks on Southern Germany and on Norway and timed to coincide, as suggested above, with a general offensive by the Red Army in the East. As a result of these combined operations, we should be able to establish ourselves firmly on the continent once more. It is likely that Italy will collapse soon after the commencement of these operations, but as to whether we will succeed in driving the Nazi Armies back within the borders of Germany next year, depends on how well the fledging Anglo-American Armies match up to the German veterans. It is unlikely that the Red Army will be able to mount such a substantial offensive as well be necessary to push the Germans completely out of Russia. In any event there is likely to be very savage and very bitter fighting within Germany itself before we completely smash the Nazi Armies. We can expect them to use every conceivable means, including gas and perhaps germ warfare in a last desperate attempt to do as much damage as they can before they are defeated. It will probably mean at least six months fighting in Germany itself.

There will then be the final phase of the war in which our strength will be shifted to the Pacific against Japan. There we can expect more bitter fighting as we painfully and slowly dislodge the Japanese from their holdings. Sporadic fighting is likely to continue in the Pacific for many

months after the war, to all intents and purposes, has ended.

Personally I do not myself, expect cessation of hostilities until perhaps 1945.

### CLARIFIED

"My good woman," said the judge, "you must give an answer in the fewest possible words of which you are capable to the plain and simple question whether, when you were crossing the street with baby on your arm, and the bus was coming down on the right side and the taxi on the left, and the motorcycle was trying to pass the bus, you saw the plaintiff between the motorcycle and the taxi, or whether you saw him at all near the motorcycle, taxi and bus, or either, or any two, and which of them respectively, or how it was."

## SPORT SPLASHES



### HOCKEY

A bigger inter-flight hockey league is being planned for the New Year's including one or more teams from the headquarters' staff.

Four fights play nightly at the "D" Squadron rink. More than 25 games have been played since the league opened on Dec. 7.

The station hockey team, which has had more than ten practise periods, has promising material. It is well fortified in the goal, has plenty of good defense men and an abundance of fast forwards.

During the first World War, Marshal Foch's chauffeur, Pierre, was constantly besieged by his comrades with: "Pierre, when is the war going to end? You ought to know."

Pierre tried to satisfy them. "The moment I hear anything from the Marshal, I will tell you."

One day he came to them.

"The Marshal spoke today."

"He did? Well, what did he say?"

"He said: "Pierre, what do you think? When is this war going to end?"

### SPORT PERSONALITIES AT NO. 2

Fresh from his debut with the National Hockey league, his lifetime ambition, Shey Mayer is one of the sports personalities now at the manning depot making the switch over from civilian to military life.

For three years the 19-year-old hockey star from Sturgeon Falls, Ont., has had his name on the Maple Leaf files. This year he made the big lights and played four games at Toronto as right wing.

"But I'm glad I was able to make league before I got into the force," says Shep, who is slated for aircrew.

Before he signed up with the Leafs, Shep stick handled for the Guelph Juniors. He intends to get a berth on the manning depot until he is posted with his Flight 49.

With the 8th Precision Flight, is another 19-year-old, Vern Groulx, whose career in the net last year with the Port William Hurricanes was snapped off by a cut tendon. That was in the playoff in Winnipeg with the Portage Terriers. Vern was goalkeeper with the Port Arthur Westends before he joined the other Lakehead team.

Don Kennedy, of Winnipeg, who wants to be a pilot, played defense with St. Paul's College and as substitute with the St. James Canadians. Don has also been active in baseball and rugby circles.

A blade man, but not of the stick variety, is Francis Waldie, former senior men's speed skating champion

### Major Leaguers Now U.S. War Birds



Training to become naval pilots are the five former major league baseball players above (left to right): Joe Coleman, Philadelphia Athletics; John Sain, Boston Braves; Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox; Johnny Pesky, Boston Red Sox, and Buddy Gump, Boston Braves. The boys are wearing their civilian pilot training wings, and are grouped in front of the trainer that will prepare them for arduous naval flying duties.

# FROM THE POOL



of the Norwood-St. Boniface club, Winnipeg. In the 1939-40 season Francis was at Minneapolis for the 10,000 Lakes ice meet.

Another tryout for the station team is Ewart Murray, 19, of Souris, Man., who played centre with the championship Junior B team in the Manitoba Amateur Hockey Association. Ewart is in Flight 50, the No. 7 Precision aircrew group.

Another lakehead man, Steve Ladigan, was with the Port Arthur Juniors for three years as right wing. Steve, who is going in for aircrew, is in Flight 53.

Looking away from the snow and ice we find men starring in summer sports. Jack McDowell, former rear commodore of the Winnipeg Canoe Club, in 1937 took top honors in the double paddle, senior men, of the Canadian Canoe Association meet.

Fred Cash, 19, also a former member of the Winnipeg Canoe Club, in the past season won the mile single in the Bert Orr single blade championship. Fred, slated for aircrew, is in the 8th Precision Flight.

Of Trail, B.C., Kazko Zuk, a brawny centre of that city's football club, is in the force as a service policeman. Kazko was also president of the Smelters' Softball league.

William Homenick, of Winnipeg, played outfield in the Robertson Senior Softball team. In Flight 53, William, also is going in as a service policeman.

Also from Winnipeg, Bill Waisman, of Flight 54, was active in sports when in first year at United College. He played left wing with the senior soccer team, was a member of the relay track team.

German Major to a Captain on the Russian front.

Major: "We must form a new line here."

Captain: "Ja! The men have done that."

Major: "Good! Splendid!"

Captain: "Not so good! Not so splendid!"

Major: "Huh. What you mean?"

Captain: "It's a bee-line to the rear!"



## BASKETBALL IN FULL SWING AT NO. 2

An ambitious basketball schedule is being planned for 1943 for the station basketball team, with matches to be played with three other air force and two army stations in the vicinity.

The air force-army league will draw teams from the following stations: No. 12 S.F.T.S., Brandon; No. 33 S.F.T.S., Carberry; No. 1 C.N.S., Rivers; A4 Artillery Training Centre, Brandon; Camp Shilo.

At the time of going to press the depot team has lost two and won two games. The first two games it lost to No. 12 and Rivers. But the second two it won from Carberry and A4.

Inter-flight basketball is in full swing as well as volley ball matches. In volleyball, Flight 42 won out in the knockout series of Training Wing.

Manager of the station basketball team is F/O J. R. Hillhouse who once played the game at the Y.M.C.A. and Winnipeg school grounds.



Coach is Sgt. S. Machnicki, physical training instructor, Flight Sgt. Sellers is an active member of the team.

Four former Americans, all aircrew, are on the team: AC2 A. C. Sutherland, Chicago; AC2 Miller, St. Paul, Minn.; AC2 Frask, Denver; AC2 J. J. Murray, formerly of United States, now of Fort Frances.

Two P.T.I. corporals playing are J. J. Quinn and A. Borisofsky.

AC2 G. A. Ross, of Penticton, B.C., played with the senior basket team there. AC2 J. M. Edinger played for the city team of London, Ont. AC2 Overhoffner, Regina, played for Bill and Fred's Toilers in 1941. AC2 G. A. Renton, Moose Jaw, played with the Moose Jaw Al Stars in 1941.

### "IT CAN'T BE DONE"

(Brass Hats Please Take Note)

Sign in a General Motors plant:

According to the theory of aerodynamics and as may be readily demonstrated through wind tunnel experiments, the humbebee is unable to fly. This is because the size, weight and shape of his body in relation to the total wingspread make flying impossible.

But the humbebee, being ignorant of these scientific truths, goes ahead and flies anyway—and makes a little honey every day.



The station basketball team. Left to right, back row: Sgt. M. S. Machnicki, coach; C. J. McGerrigle, Y.M.C.A. games supervisor; F/O J. R. Hillhouse, manager; Cpl. J. J. Quinn; centre row: Cpl. A. Borisofsky, AC2s J. M. Edinger, A. Overhoffner, G. A. Renton, J. J. Murray; front row: AC2s G. A. Ross, Snider, A. C. Sutherland. Players missing from the picture are: Flt. Sgt. Sellers, AC2 Trask.

## BOXING AND WRESTLING NEWS

Although no inter-station fight tournaments have yet been definitely scheduled for the near future, Cpl. Wilf Foucault, now in charge of boxing and wrestling, is building up a pool of potential contestants.

Cpl. Foucault has taken over the job from Sgt. A. Steinhauer who has been posted to Dafoe.

"We have approximately 15 turning out to practices," Cpl. Foucault told the Airmen's Post. "We want to increase the class to 50 and have them in shape for contests with other depots."

Three of the leading fighters are: Rex Gray, middleweight, who once boxed in the United States; Bill Runner, another former professional middleweight; and Babe Mathlews, a middleweight from Regina.



## BOWLING NOTES

The headquarters' staff mixed bowling league is nearing its semifinals with the Harvard team headed by Cpl. Van Gooderham in the lead.

Airmen and their wives and girls working on the staff make up the eight teams in the league. The teams take their names from Allied aeroplanes. The other seven are the Spitfire Hurricane, Lysander, Fairey Battle, Hudson, Tiger Moth, Defiant.



## SPORTS TATTLE AND TRIVIA

The New Year brings with it a definite promise of better and bigger sports and recreational facilities at the manning depot.

The new recreation room, expected to be opened shortly, will replace the present overcrowded quarters. It will be brighter, cheerier and bigger. A coal-burning fireplace will be a feature of the room. An enlarged library will be established there.

Plans are also underway to establish a well equipped gym at the depot. Under order already are a vaulting box horse and an inclined spring board. To be ordered in the near future are a horizontal bar, and tumbling mats.

At present the sports stores provide facilities for volleyball, basketball, boxing, hockey and pleasure skating. Skates are lent freely to airmen at this station, the only condition being that they must be returned by 22.30 hours of the same day they are issued.

Indication of the popularity of ice skating is shown by the fact that often the 350 pairs of skates, sizes 6 - 12, are issued during an evening.



## BRANDON STUDENTS MAKE 16,000 WOODEN SPLINTS

No less than 16,000 wooden splints are being made in the industrial arts class in Central school. The splints will be forwarded to Ottawa, for the use of the Army Medical corps overseas. Supervisor of the local class is K. A. McKillop.

A Boston man was fishing in northern Maine recently. He caught a big lake trout, the biggest he had ever landed in his long and busy life. He was so delighted that he telegraphed his wife, "I've got one. Weighs eight pounds and it is a beauty!" Answer: "So have I. Come home."

**AIRMEN'S CANTINEEN  
PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT**  
Quarter Ended September 30, 1942

NO. 2 "M" DEPOT, R.C.A.F., BRANDON, MANITOBA, STATION FUND

Gross Profit on Canteen Sales .....	\$5,364.63
<b>Additional Revenue</b>	
Airman's Post Surplus .....	\$ 123.44
Dances .....	528.60
Band .....	119.07
Stamp Commission .....	11.75
Sundry .....	29.61
	\$12.47
	\$6,177.10
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Wages .....	\$ 978.57
General Expenses .....	338.08
Benevolent Fund .....	440.51
	1,757.16
	\$4,419.94
<b>Distribution of Profits</b>	
Canteen and Library .....	\$ 249.73
Sports .....	525.35
Entertainment .....	949.08
Extra Messing .....	528.35
Extra Comforts, Hospital .....	16.41
Swimming Pool .....	300.23
Crockery Account .....	300.00
Depreciation .....	380.00
	3,249.15
Net Profit Transferred to Surplus .....	\$1,170.79

(Sgd.) H. G. REID, W/C Commanding Officer (Sgd.) N. D. CAMPBELL, P/O Officer i/c Non-Public Funds

**A GOOD BUY**

If you would like to give Christmas presents the value of which will increase, and the purchase of which will directly aid Canada's war effort, it's easy. Buy War Savings Certifi-

cates. A four dollar certificate will be worth five dollars on maturity. It makes a gift that will be appreciated. It involves no labor in packing. You avoid the risk of getting your ribs crushed in the inevitable last minute shopping rush.



**A WREN FLIES WITH THE BRITISH FLEET AIR ARM**

One of the most responsible jobs done by 'Wrens' (British Women's Royal Naval Service), is that of testing aircraft radio equipment. The only Wren actually to fly while carrying out this work is the daughter of a Cambridge radio technician. In just over twelve months' service with the Wrens, she has flown regularly in various types of aircraft, testing the radio equipment on which the lives of naval pilots may well depend in an emergency.

**THE GERMAN TRIANGLE**

(Continued from page 2)

On the south side of the triangle the line is safely anchored, at its eastern end, in the neutrality of Turkey. But west of Turkey lie Bulgaria and Rumania, fair-weather allies of the Axis; Yugoslavia, already in revolt; Italy, smoldering with trouble; the inadequately protected southern coast of France, vulnerable to attack by a series of island stepping-stones across the Mediterranean from Africa.

Hitler must mount guard over a front line six thousand miles in length. And even then his task is only half completed. For this line along which he fights to defend his power faces in both directions. It faces OUT, against enemies who are in an increasingly favorable position to deal him heavy blows. And it faces IN against enemies who will give him no quarter when he falters. We may be sure that the coincidence of three great historical facts—Rommel's rout in Egypt, the successful landing of the Americans in North Africa and the final smashing of Hitler's 1942 offensive by the amazing Russian armies—has fired the people of every temporarily conquered nation in Europe with fresh faith in an Allied victory and new courage for the unrelenting war of sabotage in which they are engaged. From this point forward Hitler will meet with even more determined opposition from within his triangle than any he has yet had to face. He will have to make war upon whole populations. He will have to arm his soldiers against death and terror in the dark. He will have to beat down the mounting doubts of his own people. And he will have to mobilize, for a war of defence on many fronts, a German industry and a German transportation system which have already felt the wear-and-tear of three hard years of war.

This is the situation as Hitler enters the fourth winter of the war of his own choosing. But the design of this approaching winter is not of his own choosing. He did not plan the war this way. It was his purpose and his plan to isolate his enemies, destroy them one by one, find Quislings who could do his work for him successfully and harness a great company of slave states to the German Reich. Now he finds this purpose thwarted, and opposition mounting on all sides. There will be long, hard fighting before this war ends in the destruction of Hitler and his armies. But we now have reason to believe that this fighting will take place wholly within, and at no point outside, the present triangle of German power.

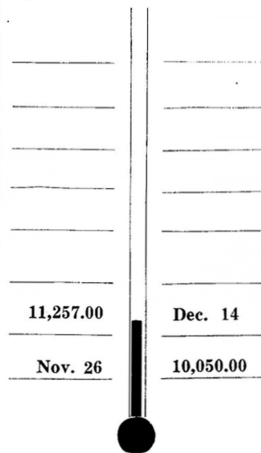
**WAR WINNING CERTIFICATES**

With our first major objective of \$10,000.00 reached we have confidently raised the ante to \$20,000.00 as the goal to be achieved as early as possible in the new campaign for 1943.



"He said it was the inoculation that did it."

**OUR OBJECTIVE  
\$20,000  
MONTHLY**



**Sales of war savings certificates climb steadily at this Station.**

1943 promises to be a banner year in every and all phases of our war effort. Imbued with the spirit of offense and determined that victory will be ours we march forward into 1943 strong of heart and firm of purpose.

Money will play a major part in determining the success or failure of our military undertakings during the coming year.

An investment in victory is an investment in security—now and in the future. Buy War Savings Certificates today!



## British Commonwealth Air Training Plan Commemorates 3rd Anniversary

Three years ago on December 17th the Canadian Prime Minister stood before a microphone in the capital city and informed the people of Canada of the signing of an agreement that was destined to make this country the greatest aviation center in the world. In this historic address the Prime Minister said:

"I am pleased to be able to announce that agreement has now been reached by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand on a co-operative air training plan. The agreement was signed last night (December 16) very shortly after midnight in my office on Parliament Hill. It is based on a proposal made to the Governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand, on September 26, by the Government of the United Kingdom.

"In addition to a rapid and extensive increase in the air training program of each of the three Dominions, the plan visualizes joint training in Canada, in the more advanced stages of pupils from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

"The undertaking is one of great magnitude.

"It will establish Canada as one of the greatest air training centres in the world. Its development will result in a rapid increase in the number of air training schools in this country,

and will achieve a steadily increasing output of highly trained pilots, observers and air gunners.

"The plan will enable the four countries to meet the greatly increasing requirements of trained personnel for their respective Air Forces, and for such service as the combined Forces may be called upon to perform in the theatres of war. The aim, in short, is to achieve, by co-operative effort, Air Forces whose co-ordinated strength will be overwhelming . . ."

Much has happened since the historic day when the partner nations committed themselves to the great Training Plan . . . somehow the first classes were enlisted, equipped and sent aloft. The first Wings Parades were held. Months ahead of schedule the stream of Pilots, Observers and Air Gunners began to flow overseas from flying fields not even included in the plans when the great original concept was laid down. The plan moved into mass production of training aircraft as other doors of supply were closed, Schools and aerodromes were provided in this country for the R.A.F. to relieve Britain's overcrowded countryside. We provided the Western terminals whence the greatest bombers flew the ocean in constantly increasing numbers during the months of urgent need.

### "THE BEGINNINGS OF FINAL VICTORY—"

A Message from Group Captain T. B. Bruce, Officer Commanding No. 33, S.F.T.S., R.A.F., Carberry, Man.

I am indeed grateful to be allowed, through the medium of your excellent magazine, to write a few words in commemoration of the third anniversary of the signing of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan agreement.

As a newly arrived Commanding Officer of one of the well-established R.A.F. Schools I am now able to see for myself the workings of one small part of this vast Training Plan, about which so much has been heard and so much written. I hope that I may be forgiven for writing a little about the Plan as it affects those of us who have come from Britain.

For the pioneers it was a great adventure, coming as some did to parts of the prairie to find their new camps no more than half completed and the rigours of a bitter Canadian winter upon them. There was much hard work to be done before the trainees could be accepted, and a routine life, with a minimum waste of time and a maximum efficiency, could be expected. At first our new life, with so much to be done, kept us busy from morning until late at night, and no real thought was given to relaxation and what was to be

done in our off-duty hours. Then, as life became more settled, a new problem arose—a problem by no means easily soluble—that of keeping the men happy. For most of us the psychological effect of the change from a country of many towns, all comparatively close to each other, to this vast expanse of flat land with the nearest town of any size to far away conveniently to visit in the evenings, was very marked. We had few friends outside the Camp, we had nowhere to go even if we went off the Camp and, in turn, most of us suffered from fits of depression known in the Service as "being browned off". But, as time went on, invitations from cities, towns, and nearby farms were received and gradually that reserve, so common to the British character, was melted by the kindly Canadian people whose great hospitality has undoubtedly been the prime factor in making our lives in this country so happy. Many of these kind new friends had been born in the "Old Country", most of them came from British stock, and all were anxious to do everything in their power to help us in every possible manner.

As the months passed many of the initial difficulties of training were overcome, the Plan widened to embrace other schools erected in vari-

(Continued on page 16)



Almost two years ago when British cities were being pounded unmercifully by the Luftwaffe the above cartoon by staff artist Rickard appeared in the Airman's Post, captioned: "The shadow of things to come." During the past summer this shadow became an actuality when great Allied aerial armadas blasted Axis cities, one by one. The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan played a major role in making this offensive possible.

## THE SLEEVE TRICK

By Stephen Leacock

From "Literary Lapses"

"Now, ladies and gentlemen," said the conjurer, "having shown you that the cloth is absolutely empty, I will proceed to take from it a bowl of goldfish. Presto!"

All around the hall people were saying, "Oh, how wonderful! How does he do it?"

But the Quick Man on the front seat, who was nobody's fool, said in a big whisper to the people near him, "He — had — it — up — his — sleeve."

The people nodded brightly and said, "Of course." And everybody whispered round the hall, "He — had — it — up — his — sleeve."

"My next trick," said the conjurer, "is the famous Hindu rings. You will notice that the rings are apparently separate; at a blow they all join (clang, clang, clang). Presto!"

There was a buzz of stupefaction till the Quick Man was heard to whisper, "He must have had another lot — up his sleeve."

Again everybody nodded and whispered, "The rings were—up his sleeve."

The brow of the conjurer clouded with a gathering frown.

"I will now," he continued, "show you a most amusing trick by which I am able to take any number of eggs from a hat. Will some gentleman kindly lend me his hat? Ah, thank you. Presto!"

He extracted 17 eggs, and for 35 seconds the audience began to think that he was wonderful. Then the Quick Man whispered along the front bench, "He has a hen—up his sleeve."

The egg trick was ruined.

It transpired from the whispers of the Quick Man that the conjurer must have concealed up his sleeve, in addition to the fish, rings and hens, a loaf of bread, a doll's cradle, a live guinea pig and a rocking chair.

The reputation of the conjurer was rapidly sinking below zero. At the close of the evening he rallied for a final effort.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I will present to you, in conclusion, the famous Japanese trick recently invented by the natives of Tipperary. Will you, sir," he continued, turning toward the Quick Man, "will you kindly hand me your gold watch?"

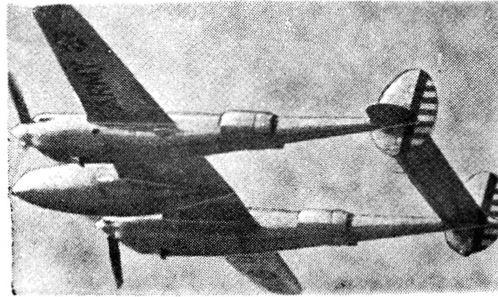
It was passed to him.

"Have I your permission to put it into this mortar and pound it to pieces?" he asked savagely.

The Quick Man nodded and smiled.

The conjurer threw the watch into the mortar and grasped a sledge hammer from the table. There was a sound of violent smashing. "He's slipped it up his sleeve," whispered the Quick Man.

## Chasing Luftwaffe in Africa



U.S. Lockheed Lightnings, new, swift, twin-engined, twin-fuselage fighters, are "making it too hot for the other guy" in North Africa. Their spectacular performance has proved them excellent escort for heavy bombers and also first-rate strafing planes. "Just what the army ordered when it comes to ground strafing," say their pilots. The Lightnings have had little competition from the Axis air force, but when they did encounter German fighters they usually got them or the Nazis ran. The Lightning P-38 is a single-seater, with an engine in each of its noses—2,180 horsepower liquid cooled Allison motors—with a cruising speed of 350 miles per hour at 16,000 feet. It has two 30-calibre machine-guns, two 50-calibre machine-guns and a small cannon.

"Now, sir," continued the conjurer, "will you kindly pass me your bowler hat and allow me to dance on it? Thank you."

The conjurer made a few rapid passes with his feet and exhibited the hat crushed beyond recognition.

The face of the Quick Man beamed. This time the real mystery of the thing fascinated him.

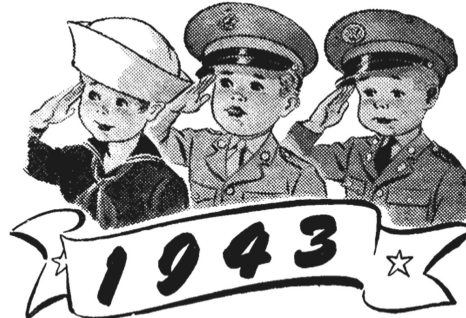
"And will you now, sir, take off your tie and permit me to burn it in the candle. Thank you, sir. And will you allow me to smash your spectacles with my hammer? Thank you."

By this time the features of the Quick Man were assuming a puzzled expression. "This thing beats me," he whispered, "I don't see through it a bit."

There was a great hush upon the audience. Then the conjurer, with a withering look at the Quick Man, concluded:

"Ladies and gentlemen, you will observe that I have, with this gentleman's permission, broken his watch, burned his tie, danced on his hat and smashed his spectacles. If he will give me the further permission to paint green stripes on his overcoat, I shall be delighted to entertain you. If not, the performance is at an end."

And amid a burst of music from the orchestra the curtain fell, and the audience dispersed, convinced that there are some tricks, at any rate, are not done up the conjurer's sleeve.



## THE BEGINNINGS OF FINAL VICTORY—"

(Continued from page 15)

cus parts of the Dominion, and pupils arrived from the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire with clock-like precision as the scheme came fully into its stride. Pupils became pilots, navigators, or gunners, and many returned for further training at home before being posted to their first operational units. The constant steady flow of pupils was maintained, and there could be no doubt of the great success of the Plan. Not only had it relieved Britain of the problem of finding sufficient aerodromes both for training and for operational purposes, but it had ensured that our future aircrew were trained unmolested by the ever present possibilities of enemy air attacks existing at home, and overcame the difficulties of night flying instruction in a country of "black-outs" and constant hazards of the elements, such as poor visibility and fog. In short, Canada with its vast expanse of flat terrain and its normally clear weather conditions, had proved to be an ideal country for flying training purposes.

Looking ahead to the days of peace, one cannot help wondering how many of the thousands who will have seen at least a little of Canada will wish to come back to stay in this land of opportunity. Some have already married Canadian girls, and when the war is over it seems probable that many will return to make their homes in Canada. With so much of Canada as yet virtually unscratched as regards her known mineral wealth, important development projects can be foreseen, and with them will be many opportunities for men of every trade and profession.

It may have been expected that I should have gone into the detailed workings of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, but at Christmastime, and with the approach of the New Year, I prefer to dwell on the thoughts of 1943, with all the hope that it holds for the beginnings of final victory, and the years to come when those of us who have been amongst you, grown to know you and learned to appreciate all you have done for us, will say from the depths of our hearts—"Thank you, Canada."

A little bird at the north pole decided to visit the equator on his vacation. At the same time a little bird at the south pole made the same decision. They were very much pleased with each other when they met at the equator, and spent much of their time together. But, all good things come to an end, and they finally had to go home. Not long afterward the little bird at the north pole received a telegram from the little bird at the south pole, saying: "I'm with Byrd."

## SHOOTS DOWN NAZI PLANE IN NINE-MILE HIGH CLASH

An air battle nine miles above the Mediterranean which ended with a 40-year-old Kenyan test pilot in a special Spitfire shooting down a German high-altitude Junkers-86, was reported by the air ministry news service.

The pilot was Flying Officer Reynolds, of Kenya colony, who went aloft from an Egyptian airbase after vapor trails of the high-flying enemy craft had been sighted. He climbed to 40,000 feet, then to 50,000 feet in a dizzy chase.

The temperature in the cockpit fell to 67 below zero and all the plane's instruments were coated with ice. Reynolds, faint, nauseated, almost blind from weakness and pain, struggled on. He suddenly sighted the German 100 yards away. Reynolds tried to fire his guns but his hands were stiff with cold, his arms paralyzed, and the German turned quickly out to sea.

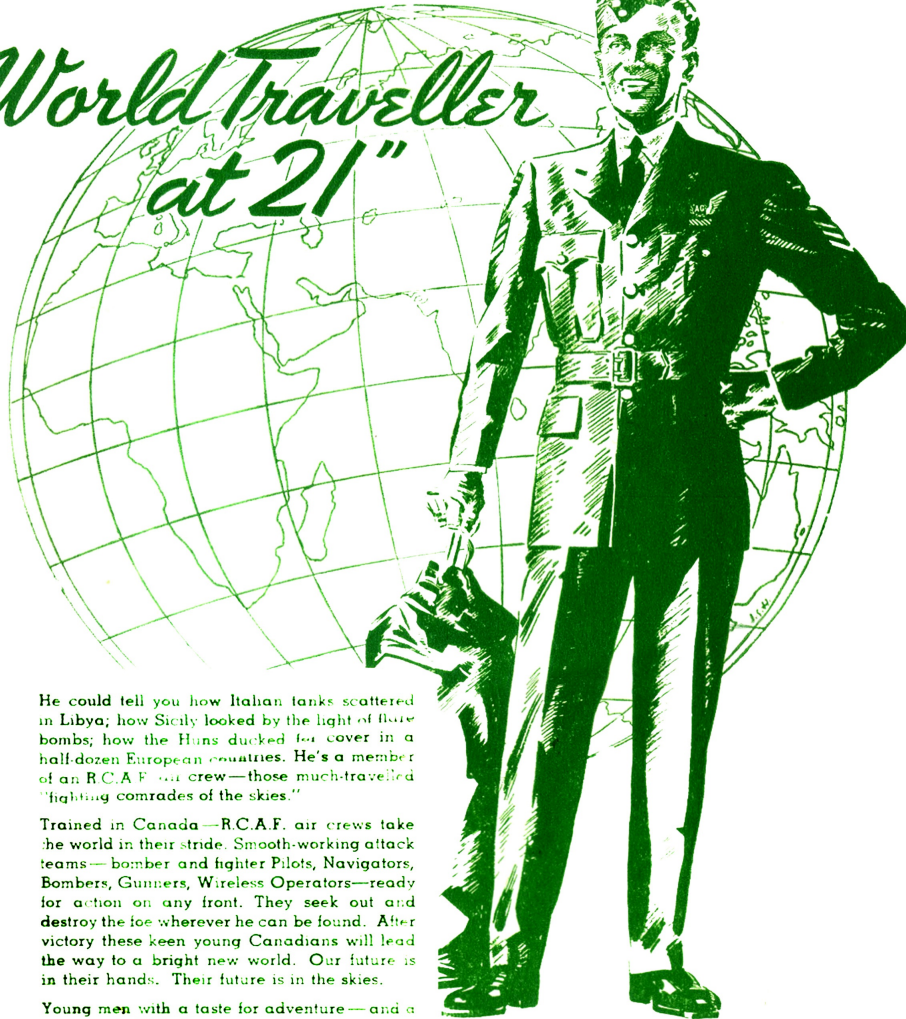
The Kenyan who had then been flying an hour above 45,000 feet, steered his plane by manipulating his weight and followed the Junkers far out over the Mediterranean.

Finally, Reynolds managed to thaw his frozen hands enough to open combat. The German's starboard engine burst into flames and the craft spiraled down into the sea.

Reynolds has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross



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